Exploitation of hawkers in Railway zones

306. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Indian Express of January 7, 1996, captioned, "Humble Hwaker Treads where lawkeepers damur to step in";

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to liquidate the racket running with the collusion of railway employees and Railway protection Force personnel, operating on Bombay Suburban Railway; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent the exploitation of poor hawkers operating in different railway zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since "Police (including Railway Police)" and "Public Order" are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the constitution of India, registration and investigation into any complaint of alleged racked or exploitation of hawkers operating in the train or at the Railway premises is the responsibility of Government Railway Police (GRP) which functions under the control of respctive State Government/ U.T. Administration. Action is taken against any railway employees including RPF if any collusion or exploitation on his part is proved.

Hawking/selling eatables or other articles by unauthorised vendors/hawkers in trains and on station premises is an offence under Section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989. To eradicate this mence, frequent checks are conducted with the help of Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police staff. Persons so apprehended are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Railwys Act.

Meeting of CISCE

307. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1903 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whom each member represented in the meeting;

(b) whether the activities of the Chief Executive and Secretary were also discussed in the meeting;

(c) if so, the outcome therof;

(d) when will its next meeting be held;

(e) how many of its employees had gone abroad for training and for other extra curricular activities in the past three years; and

(f) their names, official status, purpose of visit, period of stay and the activities abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) The information furnished by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Excaminations (CISCE) is given in the attached statement and (*See* below)

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by the Council, the report of the Chief Executive & Secretary on the work done in the Office of the Council between April and November, 1995 was discussed in the General Body meeting of the Council. The Council has further informed that the report was noted with appreciation.

(d) The next meeting of the General Body of the Council is scheduled for 26th April 1996.

(e) and (f) The information furnished by the Council is attached.